



Annual Water Quality Report for 2019

North City Water District continues to maintain state and federal water quality guidelines that are significantly below EPA maximum levels.

All About Your Water

Where Is Your Water From? Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds.

Who Tests Your Water? Your drinking water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who sets drinking water quality standards, establishes testing methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities, sets maximum levels for water contaminants, and requires utilities to give public notice whenever a violation occurs. Your drinking water is tested frequently both by North City Water District and Seattle Public Utilities, our supplier, to ensure that high quality water is delivered to your home.

What is Your Water Being Tested For? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects is available by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800.426.4791.

When is Your Water Tested? Continuously—365 days a year.

How is Your Water Tested? Over 200 compounds are tested and not detected; most of this monitoring occurs once every several years. Tests are done before and after treatment and while your water is in the distribution system. The Tables presented on the following page list all of the contaminants detected in the most recent required water testing and compare them to the limits and goals set by the EPA and the State of Washington to ensure your tap water is safe. Not shown are more than 200 additional contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you would like to see a list of these other compounds or if you have other water quality questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Please note: asbestos monitoring is not required for our District because all the asbestos pipe in our distribution system was replaced prior to 1991.

How Safe is Your Water? Your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines for each and every contaminant, significantly below the EPA's levels.

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results

Our regional water supply does not contain lead or copper. However it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. North City Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

People With Special Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

If you would like to learn more about your water, or if you have questions about its quality, please don't hesitate to contact North City Water District at 206.362.8100.

Table 1: Water Quality Testing Results for 2019

Compounds that were not detected in 2019 are not included in these charts.

Types of Detected Compounds	Units	Primary Source	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Max. Allowed (MCL)	Levels in the Cedar River Watershed		Levels in the Tolt Watershed		Meets EPA Stds.?
RAW WATER									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	Naturally present in the environment	NA	TT	0.5	0.3 to 0.8	1.1	1.0 to 1.3	Yes
FINISHED WATER SOURCE									
Turbidity	NTU	Soil runoff	NA	TT	0.3	0.2 to 1.8	0.03	0.01 to 0.17	Yes
Arsenic	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	0	10	0.4	0.4 to 0.6	0.4	0.3 to 0.4	Yes
Barium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2000	2000	1.6	1.4 to 1.9	1.3	1.1 to 1.5	Yes
Bromate	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	0	10	ND	ND	0.2	ND to 2	Yes
Chromium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	100	100	0.27	0.25 to 0.33	0.2	ND to 0.24	Yes
Fluoride	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth	4	4	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	Yes
Nitrate	ppm	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	10	10	ND	One sample	0.11	One sample	Yes
SPECIFIC SAMPLES FROM NORTH CITY WATER DISTRICT'S DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM									
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	80	Average: 44 Range: 27 to 66			Yes	
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	60	Average: 37 Range: 18 to 46			Yes	
Chlorine	ppm	Water additive to control microbes	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Highest Monthly Average: 0.84 Range: 0.09 to 1.34			Yes	

Table 2: Lead and Copper Monitoring Results for the Tolt Watershed in 2017

Samples are taken every three years. Five of the 51 samples in the Tolt Watershed were taken in NCWD's service area. None of the samples for the Cedar River Watershed were from NCWD's service area.

Lead and Copper Sampling Program and Units	Ideal Goal MCLG	Action Level ¹	Results of 2017 Samplings ²	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Lead, ppb	0	15	4.0	0 of 51	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Samples collected in homes within the Tolt water service area.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.15	0 of 51	

¹ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

² 90th percentile: 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

Table 3: UCMR4 Monitoring for 2019

Analyte	Units	MRL	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Manganese	ppb	0.4	ND	1.5	0.75
Quinoline	ppb	0.0	0.026	0.15	0.09
Bromochloroacetic Acid	ppb	0.3	0.4	0.91	0.6
Bromodichloroacetic Acid	ppb	0.5	0.93	1.5	1.1
Dibromoacetic Acid	ppb	0.3	ND	0.32	0.04
Dichloroacetic Acid	ppb	0.2	4.4	15.0	8.3
Monochloroacetic Acid	ppb	2.0	ND	2.1	0.26
Trichloroacetic Acid	ppb	0.5	12	17	14.4

UCMR4 data is reported to let you know about new contaminants that may be regulated in the future. The EPA requires us to monitor contaminants that do not have defined health-based standards. The EPA uses this information to determine the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water systems, which may lead to future regulations. The contaminants monitored were selected through a data-driven process that considered adverse health effects (potency and severity) and occurrence (prevalence and magnitude), but additional health information is needed to know whether the contaminants pose a health risk. For more information about the program, visit EPA's website:

www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule

Table Definitions

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level

The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

TT: Treatment Technique

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2019 is 5 NTU, and for the Tolt supply it was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. 100% of Tolt samples in 2019 were below 0.3 NTU.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

ppm: 1 part per million = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter.

ppb: 1 part per billion = 1 ug/L = 1 microgram per liter

1 ppm: = 1000 ppb.



Project Update: New Maintenance Building


Progress is still underway at our new Maintenance Building. The metal portion of the Vehicle Facility is being erected, and its roof will be installed soon, along with a roof on the Decant Facility. Although higher than expected bids caused us to eliminate both the Wash Facility and final build out of the Vehicle Facility, we were still able to construct the Vehicle Facility's concrete pad. We expect to enclose the final bays of this facility as soon as our finances allow for it. Meanwhile an old structure located on the northeast corner of the property have been removed to make way for the crews' parking lot.

Why Tap Water is Better than Bottled (and not just in an emergency)

Four Reasons to Stop Buying Bottled Water:

1. The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in tap water. Standard procedures for tap water filtration, disinfection, and treatment removes or inactivates the virus.
2. Each year, 17 million barrels of oil are used to produce the plastic for bottled water (equivalent to 340 million gallons of gasoline).
3. Only 1 in 5 of these plastic water bottles gets recycled.
4. Bottled water is much more expensive than tap water.

Tap water is the safest, least expensive, and most environmentally sound way to remain hydrated.



Planning to replace or install a new toilet, or upgrade your sprinkler system? How about commercial kitchen equipment, laundry equipment, medical equipment, or industrial refrigeration? Saving Water Partnership has an abundance of rebates for homeowners, apartment and condo owners, as well as institutions, and commercial/industrial businesses. For more information, visit: www.savingwater.org/rebates